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Senate

JACK F. OWENS, IN MEMORIAM

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a moment to reflect on the life of Mr. Jack. F. Owens upon his passing. Jack was a good friend and a man who made remarkable contributions toward educational opportunities for thousands of Delawareans. He was a man with a kind heart, diverse interests, great abilities and boundless energy.

Jack was born in Easley, SC. After graduating from Easley High School where he excelled in various sports, Jack went to Furman University where he continued his academic and athletic exploits, lettering in three sports, and graduating in 1952.

After serving his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Jack returned to South Carolina and began a career in academia, first in the Pickens County School system and then at Greenville Technical College.

Responding to the call of then Delaware Governor Charles Terry, Jack came to Delaware to help open Delaware's Technical and Community College in Sussex County in March of 1967. He was the school's first administrator and headed the Sussex County campus for twenty-eight years, retiring in 1995. In 1993, Jack received Delaware's highest honor when he was awarded "The Order of the First State."

As Governor, I had the honor of signing into law legislation that named the Sussex Campus in Jack's honor. Today, it is called "The Jack Owens Campus." The energy and commitment found in the students and

faculty at DelTech are, in large part, due to Jack's vision.

Even after his retirement, Jack remained committed to public service. He served on numerous boards and commissions including The Arthritis Foundation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ducks Unlimited, and served as a board member of the Beebe Medical Center and as Chairman of the Delmarva Chicken Festival. He received honorary doctorate degrees from Wilmington College and the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, where he helped establish a community college system.

Jack leaves behind his wife Donna, 6 children and 6 grandchildren. He also leaves behind many friends, colleagues and several generations of students who are living more productive, satisfying lives today because Jack made the decision thirty-five years ago to come north to Delaware.

Jack's lifelong dream was that students in Sussex County would have the opportunity to receive undergraduate and advanced degrees in their home county. He lived to see that dream fulfilled.

Jack's legacy will live on in the lives of those he helped shape, in the halls of education facilities he helped build, and in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to call him their friend. I rise today to commemorate Jack's life, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family support. Jack embodied the best of Delaware. He will be sorely missed.